



**CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT**  
**CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Councilor Franklin Paulino, Chair** *North District*  
**Councilor Jack Hanson,** *East District*  
**Councilor Jane Stromberg,** *East District*

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**Special Meeting of the**  
**Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council**

**Minutes – Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:30 PM**

1. **Meeting called to order by Councilor Paulino and started at 5:33 PM.**
2. **Agenda accepted as published unanimously.**
3. **Public Forum**
  - There were no public comments made.
4. **University Place Preferred Alternative**
  - Phillip Peterson (DPW), Laura Wheelock (DPW)
  - DPW requests the TEUC recommend to the City Council approval of the enhanced design concept as preferred alternative to the University Place Conceptual Design.
  - DPW has worked in partnership with UVM to develop two conceptual designs. The enhanced concept is preferred based on public input and review from DPW and UVM staff.
  - Exciting opportunity to complete project while cost sharing with UVM.
  - Councilor Discussion
    - Councilor Paulino – When was last TEUC presentation of this project?  
Phillip Peterson: September 22, 2020. This is the fifth public meeting.  
Paulino: What were the controversial differences between standard and enhanced?  
Peterson: Enhanced design is a different approach. It includes a narrower roadway profile, wider east-side sidewalk, a new west-side sidewalk and higher quality finishes.  
Laura Wheelock: Two outreach surveys were conducted with high response, both showing public preference for enhanced option.  
Paulino: What did the traffic engineers think of where traffic would go? What about the left turn from Main Street?  
Wheelock: Study found that the one-way northbound traffic pattern would accommodate the majority of existing vehicular traffic on the street without a major impact on adjacent intersections. The EB left turn on to University Place would remain, but City can evaluate opportunities to improve striping as part of the State's planned 2022 Main St repaving project. The City and UVM are recommending a joint MOU to adjust boundary lines at the Pearl / Prospect / Colchester intersection to allow for a future construction project to better align the northern and southern approaches and improve intersection performance.
    - Councilor Stromberg – From concept stage to solid design, what is timeframe?  
Peterson: Next summer or fall for final design, Construction to bid in a year and FY23 construction completion.
  - Councilor Hanson – Does the enhanced design include bike lanes?  
Phillip Peterson: Yes
  - Councilor Paulino moved to support the Enhanced Design recommendation for City Council approval. Seconded by Councilor Stromberg..  
All in favor. Passes unanimously.
5. **Expediting Implementation of Transportation Projects**
  - Requested by Councilor Jack Hanson, Director Chapin Spencer (DPW),

- Councilor Hanson: Goal: Initiate conversation regarding transportation projects, and how to move them through more efficiently from planning to implementation.
- Director Spencer: City has ambitious plans and DPW has successfully put a lot of projects in the ground in a timely and efficient manner. Things that can slow project implementation include diffuse decision making in the City, the community's and Council's expectation of a robust and inclusive engagement process, funding availability, grant requirements when utilizing grant funds, and staff capacity. All this said, DPW is happy to explore ways to further improve the project development process and will continue this conversation with the TEUC.
- Councilor Paulino: Sensitive to Councilor Hanson's concern. Believes DPW delivers many projects of all sizes with a small amount of staff. Believes DPW could use another three to four engineers to better tackle more projects.
- Councilor Hanson: Not a criticism – appreciates amount of work – how do we recognize the urgency of the climate crisis? Within planBTV Walk/Bike, we have a lot of work to accomplish by 2022 (the 1-5 year recommendations) and is an important goal to meet. What does the process look like to complete Main Street?
- Director Spencer: Main Street identified as critical corridor for all modes. We have been exploring using Downtown TIF funds to comprehensively rehabilitate the six blocks between Union and Battery. The Council would need to grant many approvals to advance this effort. We have also been looking at potential lane adjustments ease of Union up the hill to accommodate bike lanes. The DPW Commission would need to approve parking and traffic regulations to accommodate this. Norm Baldwin: Regarding the time frame of a Main Street project, design would take approximately a year and one to two seasons to construct. At \$2.5M per block, it would be a very significant investment. We have voter approval for only two of the six blocks currently. Reluctant to add staff engineers to complete projects to then lay them off. Team size must be sustainable, but can use consultants to add capacity when needed. DPW is also working on significant work to buildings to be completed in the next five years. Glad we are making progress.
- Councilor Hanson: Agree – don't hesitate to ask TEUC for support to complete projects. Sees the bottleneck of staff and finances.
- Councilor Hanson: How to accrue more funds: transportation demand management – new buildings and ban on fossil fuels – these would need a charter change – consider parking enforcement funds.
- Director Spencer: There are options to evaluate. Many funds are currently constrained with the pandemic (such as the Traffic Fund), but happy to discuss and plan with the Council for the long term.
- Nicole Losch: Any large planning project will have an advisory committee. Having public engaged is important for transparency and helps make better decisions. Takes extra time but necessary. Always room for improvement.
- Councilor Hanson: Happy to start discussion of project efficiencies and improving committee processes with Council.
- Director Spencer: Staff is ready and willing to engage with TEUC.

#### **6. Councilors' Update.**

- No Councilors had updates.

#### **7. Public Engagement:** Call from Dan Pecor: Thanks to DPW and TEUC for taking under consideration his suggestion to use pet friendly solutions for winter sidewalk maintenance.

#### **8. Next TEUC Meeting**

- December 15, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

#### **9. Adjourn**

- Councilor Paulino moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jack Hanson at 6:47. The motion passed unanimously.